The Lions' Pride

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School of Business hosts annual 2-day IBC

International Business Conference presentations hit home for business majors

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Saint Leo held its 3rd International Business Conference (IBC) on Feb. 8-10 with the help of their main sponsors Pearson eCollege, the Conference Committee, the faculty and staff of the Donald R. Tapia School of Business, and the Saint Leo community. The focus of the IBC was on "Strategic Alliances for a Global Economy" featuring keynote speakers, Thomas Stewart from Booz and Company, and Dr. Jeff Borden from Pearson eCollege. The featured speaker was Dr. Josefa Ramoni from the Universidad de Los Andes in Venezuela, with speaker Giampaolo Orlandoni.

The conference offered a full agenda of presentations that along with the keynote and featured speakers offered Breakout Sessions presented by academic staff and professional practitioner panels, and Electronic Smartboard® Poster Presentations featuring work by the business students of Saint Leo. Thomas Stewart presented "Globalization – Are We There Yet?" and "How to Build The Capabilities To Be A Truly Global Company." Steward emphasized on how immigrants do not follow in their father's footsteps, and that new industries have lots of immigrants. "We are all immigrants in a global economy," said Steward.

Dr. Jeff Borden presented "Connecting in a 'Flattened' world," and emphasized on how quickly information travels, and how quickly our preferences affect decision makers. Borden had the audience text a number on their cellular telephones and make choices based on a poll, and within 30 seconds the levels on a website bar graph started to change. Information is gathered instantly every time you surf the web, and he warns us that companies like Google are creating a "filter bubble" around each individual. Borden demonstrated that two different people on different computers can search a word such as Egypt, and the search results will be different for each person, and solely based on their own "filter bubble." "Filters are shutting us out," said Borden and we are only being fed information on what web companies think are our personal preferences.

The Breakout Sessions were presented by the Saint Leo faculty, with support from panelists who had practical experience in the global business economy. Lorrie McGovern, Saint Leo University MBA Director, presented "Global Entrepreneurship – Helping the Economy Recover." Panelists and the audience got to voice their views on what is needed from United States entrepreneurs in order to project the United States into emerging

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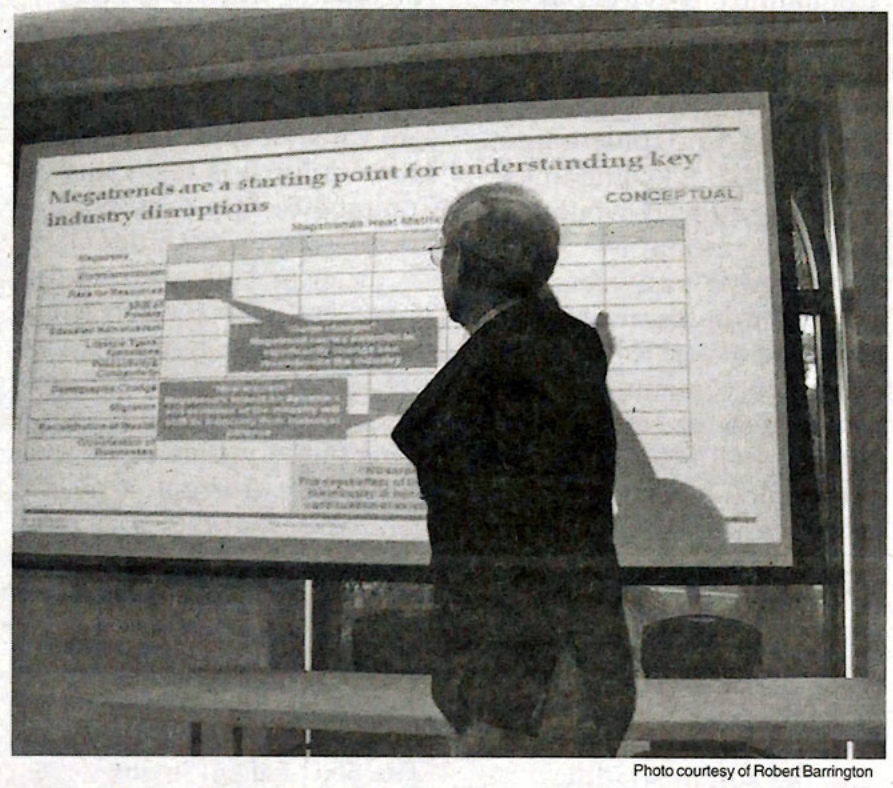

Photo courtesy of Robert Barrington

Saint Leo community mourns the loss of Professor Patrick Draves, Ph. D

Patrick Draves at University Commencement 2011

On Monday, February 13, Dr. Patrick Draves, Associate Professor of Psychology, passed away from a battle with cancer.

The impact of Draves' tenure at Saint Leo echoed throughout University Campus. The Student Government Union organized the event, "De w the Draves," where students gathered in front of the Saint Jude Chapel to enjoy his favorite beverage, Mountain Dew, and left notes in his memory.

On Feb. 14, a memorial service was held at the Abbey Church, and a funeral was held Feb. 15 at Hodges Family Funeral Home in Dade City. Draves was lauded by students young and old, as well as faculty and friends. Along with fond stories and memories, one student remarked, "because of Dr. Draves, at 73, I'm working toward my Ph.D."

Draves will forever be remembered as a fierce advocate for students, an incredibly gifted professor, and a great friend.

We at The Lions' Pride mourn alongside the Saint Leo community, and offer our sympathies and prayers.

Students with handcrafted shirts - "Dew the Draves"

Opinions

Surrounding community gets served, kind of

By Owen Robertson
Staff Writer

On Jan. 28 the sun rose upon a normal Saturday on the Saint Leo University campus, but this was no ordinary day, this was Community Service Day. This year marked the 14th year of Community Service Day on campus, a time for the Saint Leo population to give back to its community.

This Saturday would see a modest turnout as compared to past years; could this be because a lack of desire of service from the Saint Leo community or could there be competing interests with Gasparilla and the Kumquat Festival? Both of which were scheduled for the same day this year.

There is no clear answer, but Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, Associate Director for Multicultural and international Services, and the administration coordinator of Community Service Day for the last 14 years, doesn't think so.

"The President's Staff select the date for community service a year in advance." says Ramsey-Hamacher.

The competing interests coupled with the recent decision to remove the requirement of Introduction to the University Experience or SLU100 students to participate in Community Service Day are the most likely causes for the reduced turnout. This decision to remove the requirement for community service from SLU100 was an academic decision, according to Ramsey-Hamacher and Jessica Cannon, Vice President of Operations at the Student Government Union (SGU).

With a reduction in turnout, why then continue the Community Service Day? The answer there is simple; one has but to look at the core values of Saint Leo University for the answer. The second core value at Saint Leo is Community. It is this value of Community that prompts the directive from the Student Government Union to require 25 percent participation from student organizations on campus and 75 percent from the Greek organizations. While the service is compulsory, it is not mandatory that the service be done on Community Service Day; the completion date for this required service is not till February 15, according to Cannon.

Cannon further stated that "The SGU feels it is our responsibility to serve the community and that Community Service Day allows us to tie back to that community practicing our core value of community and responsible stewardship."

Ramsey-Hamacher expanded upon this notion when she expressed that the purpose of the 25/75 requirement is to "Develop the notion of giving back. While mandatory, the thought is to help instill a sense of giving back." She even added that it's a great opportunity for students, faculty and administration to work side by side in an environment that they would never have in the classroom "to develop a sense of community by doing service next to people you might otherwise never meet."

Photo by Brook McGinnis
S.A.S.S., the women's acapella, performs at the Pasco County Courthouse as an act of community service during the Kumquat Festival.

It is easy to look at Community Service Day and find a way to do something else that day, but as responsible members of the Saint Leo community there needs to be a greater notion to others. Helping the needs of many by volunteering a mere four hours, twice a year, is something that every member of the Pride should consider.

The next community service day will be during the fall semester of the 2012-2013 school year.

The Lions' Pride

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Letters to the editor to The Lions' Pride should be no more than 500 words in length and should not include profane or slanderous language. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, and libel; as well as the right to publish or not. All submissions should be sent to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not a publication) so we can verify authorship.

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OPINIONS

Globalization issue: who really benefits?

The corporate and entrepreneurial goal of producing quality rather than quantity

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Globalization is the buzz word that you hear every time you watch the news or read the newspaper.

Globalization is taught in our school systems and our universities as the increase in globalism, and is seen as a way to improve our economy. But no one asks who really benefits from globalization? In our efforts to become a global economy, did we sell the goose that lays the golden eggs?

Looking at the United States exporting figures would make you think that we, as a country, are doing very well, but upon closer examination it becomes clear that what we are exporting is our manufacturing facilities, our technology and our natural resources. Why we used to prosper is because our competitive advantage was our industrialization and our high technology, but since we live in a global market, cheaper labor is easier to obtain in countries such as India and China. We do have the smartest entrepreneurs in the world, and our corporations are always striving to improve the bottom line, but they increased their profits by exporting our technology and manufacturing facilities to other countries.

The United States started exporting our facilities and our jobs many years ago, and on paper the profits looked good for the corporations and entrepreneurs, but not much is left for the American people. We have sold the goose that lays the golden eggs, and China learned very quickly that they no longer need to supply our corporations with cheap labor. They started their own corporations, and now we are left with the bad end of a huge trade deficit. We sold our manufacturing to globalization, and now we scratch our heads looking for a competitive advantage for our people. Since we manufacture much less than what we used to, we can now start selling our natural resources to globalization, since we don't manufacture much anymore. The way the United States benefited from globalization is short lived; we sold our manufacturing, and if we continue down this path, eventually we will run out of natural resources to sell.

> *"In our efforts to become a global economy, did we sell the goose that lays the golden eggs?"*

If we are to succeed in this new global market, we need to increase our share of the global economy, or we will become cannibalistic. Our slice of the world economic pie has decreased, and our entrepreneurs will be fighting each other for a larger portion of our shrinking slice. Due to cheap labor in the global economy, manufacturing is no longer our competitive advantage. Entrepreneurs are left with the task of increasing our share of the global economy, but it is going to be difficult boring money, and thanks to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, there are tighter restrictions on small corporations raising money by selling their stock shares. Our Defense industry seems to be strong, but every time our country goes to war, our deficit increases. We are also selling our military technologies to other countries, and most of the weapons that the enemy is pointing at our soldiers were made or developed in the United States.

The solution to globalization is to be the best at the game, and in the past we relied on our technology and innovation. Our entrepreneurs need to create better products and services so we as a country are taking in more money from the world than we are putting out. We need to produce quality as well as quantity. Who needs another two dollar can opener from China that doesn't work anyhow? Other countries are good at copying products, but the United States is great at innovating high tech products and services. Let's create another goose that lays the golden eggs, but this time let's not be so short sighted and greedy. Our country needs to give our corporations and entrepreneurs more incentives to keep improving our competitive advantage, and instead of selling our technology, use it locally and sell other countries our products and services.

Get the full experience of being a commuter

Commuting student can have social lives on Saint Leo University's campus, too

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Have you heard?! Commuters can have a social life on Saint Leo Campus too! Saint Leo is home to many students with different schedules and lifestyles. There are several organizations, clubs, interest groups, and activities to involve every student with every kind of schedule.

As a commuter at Saint Leo University I know that there are many times where i feel the pressure of trying to keep up with my home life, classes, and jobs. But the key to be able to balance all this and be able to involve myself on campus is communication and time management. My freshman year here at Saint Leo University my life was all about going to class, completing my hours at my work study job, going back home to work at my other job, and then home to get some rest before starting the same routine the next day. I really was not involved with anything here at Saint Leo and thought I did not have the time. I now have three jobs, an internship, involved in a sorority and honor society on campus, worked two summers as an Orientation Leader, and currently enrolled in eighteen credit hours. Some people think it sounds crazy and impossible, but I just make sure that I know when I have what due, when I need to be somewhere, and make sure to not commit myself to tasks that I cannot complete.Having that many jobs is definitely not ordinary for most commuter students, but we usually do have a normal five to six classes and homework. That for us is already a lot of time especially when we have to worry about going home at the end of the day and taking care of chores and siblings at home.

I found that some of the easiest ways to get involved on campus is to see when there are events. You would be surprised how many events are planned, and just because we cannot make every event does not mean to rule out all of them. Sometimes just going to Bingo or the Cobb movie event can get you mingling. There are also quite a few organizations on campus that are willing to work with commuters who really want to get involved on campus. We have Greek life, Campus Activities Board, Student Government Union, and over seventy organizations as well. There is even an organization designated for commuter students. So not only is there an organization for just about any interest and major, but students are also encouraged to continuously create new organizations and get involved.

What this means for commuter students is that we have every opportunity to sit down at some point in our week and see if there are some things we are interested in on campus and make that daring move to seek out more information. You don't have to just go straight home after classes. All the commuters are encouraged to make a move and get involved. Why not make the best of your college experience and see what Saint Leo University has to offer.

Campus News

L.E.D. Presentation, the first in a series

By Mathew Rodgers
Staff Writer

On February 8, the School of Arts and Sciences put together its first L.E.D. (Learning, Enlightenment and Discovery) presentation. They are presentations that are given at Saint Leo, where university faculty members speak about current scholarly projects. The first L.E.D. had three different presentations covering a wide range of subjects from pirates to nuns and was entitled, "Delving into Fascinating Lives."

The first presenter of the night was Dr. Kathryn Stasio, Associate Professor of English, who had put together a presentation on pirates entitled "Avast Ye Mateys! There Be Pirates Here – But How Will We Recognize Them?" Dr. Stasio discussed how modern societies perception of pirates differs from the way pirates were perceived in the 18th century. In her presentation Dr. Stasio gave the example of Captain Morgan. He is stereotyped in the media as the mascot for Captain Morgan Rum . However, Dr. Stasio then contrasted him against the real Captain Morgan, a lieutenant governor of Jamaica, who looks more like an English gentleman than a pirate. Dr. Stasio explained that in 18th century England, pirates emerged due to the practice of employing privateers to maintain British naval power across the globe. However, when they were no longer needed by the government the privateers branched out on their own and became pirates. A lot of times these pirates were granted pardons and resumed service to the British Empire when needed, but some were hanged for piracy. This often left the question during the 18th century of who was to be considered a pirate and who was to be considered a privateer. Dr. Stasio spoke more on the subject then concluded with the statement "Pirates are fun in fiction, but not in real life" pointing out that none of us were rushing over to see the pirates in Somalia.

The second presenter was Dr. Patricia Campion, Professor of Sociology, who spoke about her work with Mexican immigrants. Dr. Campion spoke of how she first began this line of work 20 years ago when she was in grad school and offered a position to help do research on the Mexican migrant workers off the coast of Louisiana. She got to know the Mexican community, some of whom were illegal, and they shared their stories with her. Dr. Campion emphasized the connection you get with people when you do social research. Dr. Campion also discussed the problem of labor for these immigrants, describing that she witnessed major companies approaching the migrants to hire them as workers illegally. She also said that Purdue Chicken was hiring these immigrants, and abusing them and violating their workers rights. She stated that lawyers were not willing to take cases against Purdue either. Dr. Campion spoke of how it's one thing to hear these stories of people being exploited, but it's another thing to be able to report it, and do something about it. Dr. Campion concluded by stating that her type of research was exciting because she "gets to live a thousand lives".

The final presentation was given by Janet David Richardson, C.S.J.P, Rosalie McQuaide (C.S.J.P.), and Carol Moon(Outreach Librarian). The final presentation was about a 19th century woman who is referred to as Mother Clare (Margaret Anne Cusack). Mother Clare worked against poverty and sought to remedy the evils that she saw in the church and the state. While in the service of the Roman Catholic Church she was sent to Kenmare, Ireland, where her only job was to write about social issues from a Catholic perspective. Mother Clare, with the blessing of Pope Leo XIII, formed St. Joseph's Sisters of Peace in 1844. She decided that after a misunderstanding between her and the archbishop of New York that she must leave the Sisters of Peace so that the order may flourish. After having left the Church she continued to write up until her death in 1899, she wrote many articles questioning the Roman Catholic Church, and many of these questions were addressed by the Second Vatican Council.

> *"We are particularly excited about this series since it showcases the work and interests of our own faculty"*
> *- Dr. Mary Spoto, Dean*

Richardson and McQuaide also stated there is a group of people who have done research on Mother Clare and says that this research project is referred to as Women at the Table (WATT). WATT's research has been published in various reviews and various papers, forming the basis for their film on Mother Claire, which can be found in the library, and the writing entitled No Ordinary Woman. McQuiade said that "WATT is a direct response to the request of the leadership of the Sisters of St. Josephs of Peace for initiatives for peace in the face of the conflicts in Northern Ireland, with which we're all very familiar". W.A.T.T. is also doing research concerning the immigrant population, following in the footsteps of Mother Clare. At Saint Leo we have access to a collection of Margarat Anna Cusack's writings

The L.E.D. talks are an opportunity for students to learn more about their world, and to grow from the information that the faculty at Saint Leo has to offer. The next presentation will be on Tuesday, Feb. 14 entitled "Valentine's Day: Love, Sex and Art" , and the final presentation will be on Monday, Feb. 27 and it is titled "Music of the People".

International Business Conference

continued from the front page

markets in global competitiveness. While the audience was venting their opinions, the room was heating up with debate, and the session was saved by the bell, while time ran out before the room noise level reached extreme levels.

Similarly in another Breakout Session presented by Okey Igbonagwam, on "The Last Frontier and Economic Super Powers; who is doing what?" Panelists included The Lions' Pride Newspaper Ad Editor Robert Barrington, and the room became heated with discussion as the panel and audience debated whether foreign aid to Africa should be eradicated. It was presentations, lunch and dinner, and a prime opportunity for networking. debated that what may be disguised as foreign aid from the superpowers is really a form of corruption that keeps the people of Africa dependent, while they are being raped and exploited of their natural resources. Those in attendance got to witness why these presentations are called "Breakout Sessions."

In the Donald R. Tapia School of Business building,

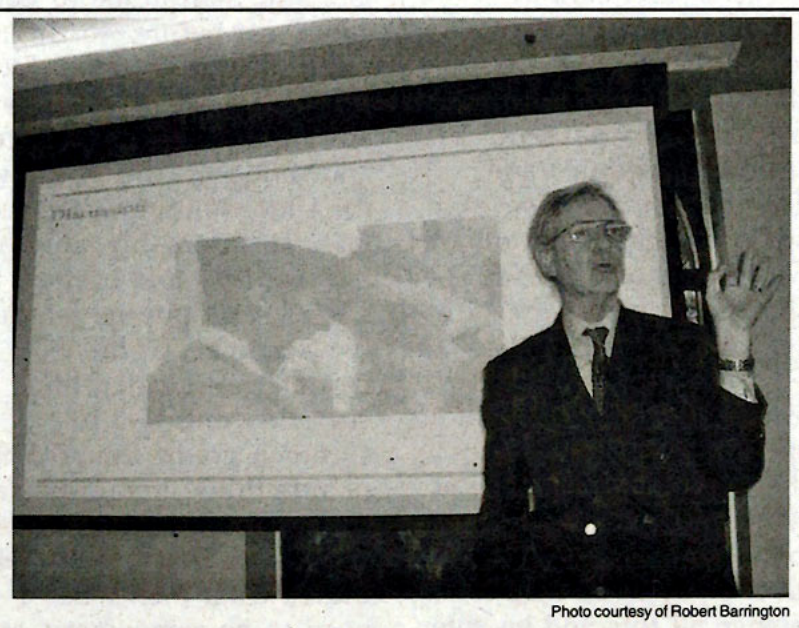


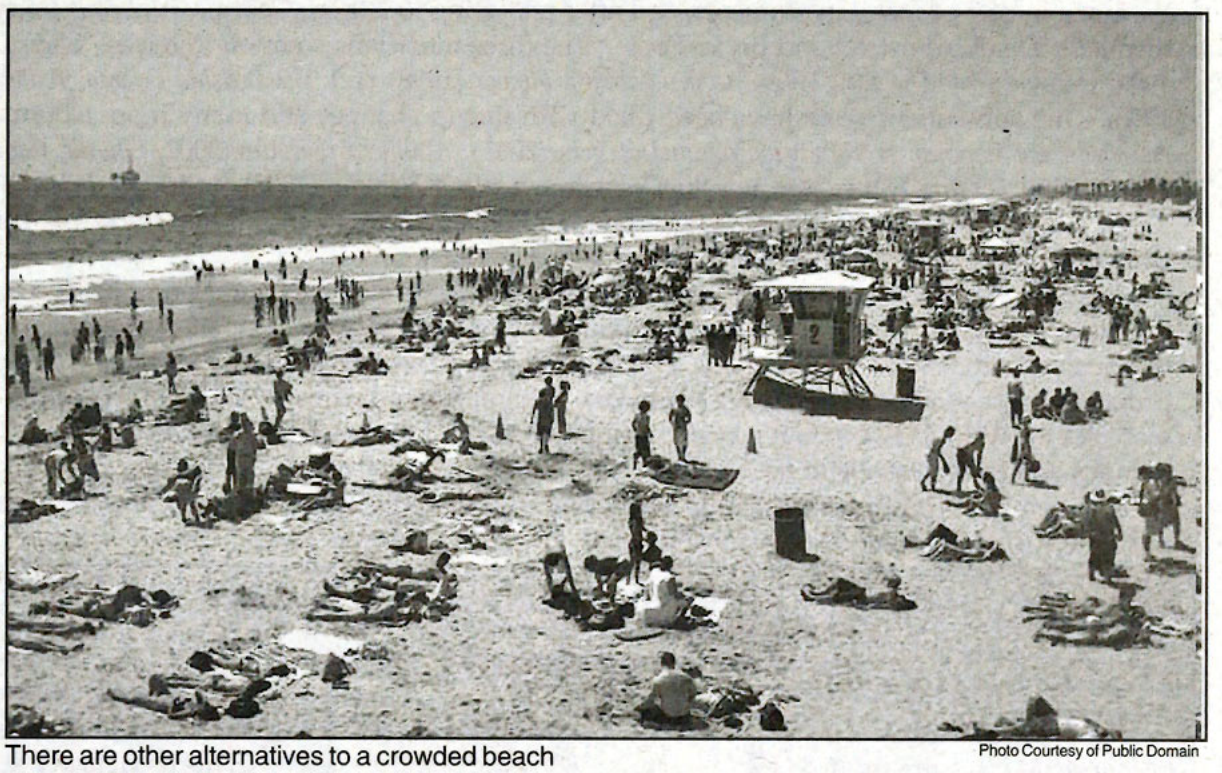
Photo courtesy of Robert Barrington

SLU business students presented their topics on the innovative Electronic Smartboard® while demonstrating the newest technologies that SLU uses in its classrooms and lecture halls. Those in attendance enjoyed two full days of global presentations, breakout sessions, and electronic Smartboard® posters.

Campus News

Spring Break 2012: An alternative to beaches and questionable decisions

By Danielle Ferguson
Staff Writer



There are other alternatives to a crowded beach

Photo Courtesy of Public Domain

This year, Saint Leo University has Spring Break from March 12th to March 16th ,with the inclusion of the weekend. Although every student attending the university has the same break, there is a diverse range of locations in which students will spend their break.

There are many different expectations as to what 2012's Spring Break has in store, ranging from party hot spots, to SERVE (Students Engaged in Rewarding Volunteer Experience) charity expeditions, family time, and extensive travel. So for all the Lions' Pride readers out there who are looking for ideas, want to try something different, or just need a bit of insight into what's available, look no further- all is embedded here.

In accordance to the Spring Break 2012 official travel guide, the top ten hot spots for this year's break range from Cancun, Mexico all the way to North American ski resorts. Of course these destinations are based primarily around college students who are looking for a party. However, it is important to note that partying isn't all that spring break is about, in fact there is an alternative Spring Break option.

So what exactly is this alternative Spring Break? Well it's a Spring Break where student volunteers, instead of picking up the swimming trunks, pick up a tool box with the goal of making a difference within different communities. Over the years of Spring Break on campus, volunteer groups composed of students and employees have packed up their work boots and traveling gear for different destinations, including Alaska, South America and others. The SERVE program has previously had Saint Leo participants headed to Atlanta, New Orleans, the Florida Keys, New Jersey, Alaska, Ecuador and Honduras with each group having its own mission.

This Spring Break, Saint Leo students involved in the SERVE program will be traveling to the city of San Jose to work with the children who reside at Obras del Espiritu Santo, an orphanage run and operated by a Catholic Mission. The students will be impacting the community by volunteering with the children, as well as being patrons at the surrounding businesses, which contribute to the prosperity of the orphanage. Those involved with S.E.R.V.E will also be traveling to Paterson, New Jersey, and volunteering with Catholic Charities to make an impact in the community by doing activities such as mentoring children, building houses and volunteering at a soup kitchen. For the Gulf Coast, SERVE students will be traveling to Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, which is a small beach front community that is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. Students will be volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and help with building, painting, landscaping and more. Those on the SERVE New York team will be traveling to the city of Geneseo to volunteer at the H.O.R.S.E (Help Our Rescue Save Equines) rescue and sanctuary. This trip will give much needed help with groundwork, horse handling and more. Finally, the Saint Leo students involved in the SERVE Florida Keys team, will be traveling to Homestead, Florida. While in Homestead, SERVE will work on mentoring migrant children, also referred to as "ghost children" due to the fact that they have missed so much schooling because of poverty.

Although the SERVE program has reached its deadline in applications for this year's spring break, if any student has any questions or would like more information, feel free to contact SERVE at: Serve.program@saintleo.edu

Unfortunately, some students were unaware the deadline to apply for SERVE was last semester. When interviewed, freshman Ashleigh Russell stated, "When I realized I'd missed the SERVE deadline it was kind of a knock for me because I was set on doing that for my freshman Spring Break as a way to boost my resume, but also have a meaningful impact on other's lives at the same time. Luckily though, I got on the ball a.s.a.p. and just over a week ago I completed my application for the 2012 National United Way Alternative Spring Break program. So fingers crossed by March 10th I could be flying to Tucson, Arizona, to help with the youth charity education system."

Although most students seem to have Florida destinations, with cities like Key West or Daytona. There were also Saint Leo students who expressed interest in a Spring Break a tad different from the norm. When interviewed Catherine Tallant, Saint Leo student, stated, "Well I'm from Florid, so this being my senior year, I decided to do something I'd never done before and travel to New Hampshire for a camping and hiking type expedition. My friend, Samantha, has a lake view cabin up in the mountains. So that's where we'll be spending a non-stereotypical Spring Break, far from the beach."

Whatever one ends up doing for Spring Break, they should make sure to have fun, be safe and make good memories.

Arts & Entertainment

Of Montreal: *Paralytic Stalks*

By Grant Schrantz
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Polyvinyl Record Co.

Georgia based indie band, Of Montreal, has just recently released their newest album, *Paralytic Stalks*; a very modern, poetic, and original work of art. From what I've read, it has been given quite a bit of critical acclaim, so now, after listening to it, I'm here to give it a little more.

Of Montreal had their start in the mid to late nineties as a one man act by singer/ songwriter, Kevin Barnes, a master of many instruments, and after relocating to Athens,Georgia, it picked up two new members: Derek Almstead and Bryan Poole. The three musicians went on to release *Cherry Peel* in 1997, followed by *The Bird Who Ate the Rabbit's Flower* (1998) and *The Bedside Drama: A Petite Tragedy*(1998). The subsequent years have been filled with lineup changes and many more albums, such as: *The Gay Parade*(1999), *Coquelicot Asleep in the Poppies: A Variety of Whimsical Verse*(2001), *Aldhils Arboretum*(2002, *Satanic Panic in the Attic*(2004), *The Sunlandic Twins*(2005), *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*, *Skeletal Lamping*(2008), and *False Priest*(2010). The present members of the band are Kevin Barnes(Vocals/multiple instruments), Bryan Poole(Guitar), Dottie Alexander(Keys), Davey Pierce, Zac Colwell, Clayton Rychlik, K Ishibashi(Violin), and Nicholas Dobbratz.

Paralytic Stalks has put me into a euphoric state of awe since I first put it on. The electronic, psychedelic, indie album goes all over the place, with hardly any songs even sounding similar to each other. One of my favorite things about this groups in general is the mix of a sixties kind of style, similar to the Beatles, with avant garde electronic equipment and a plethora of exotic instruments and sounds. A prime example of what I'm talking about is my own personal favorite track from the album "Wintered Debts". In this song, the group manages to switch between soft acoustic strings, energy filled verses, ambient instrumentals, and classic piano all within the same seven minutes and forty seconds of its duration.

It is definitely worth listening to at least once, and honestly, I can't wait to hear more from this cutting edge group. In total, I'd give this album a much deserved 4.5 stars out of 5.

Manchester Orchestra: *Simple Math*

By Mathew Rodgers
Staff Writer

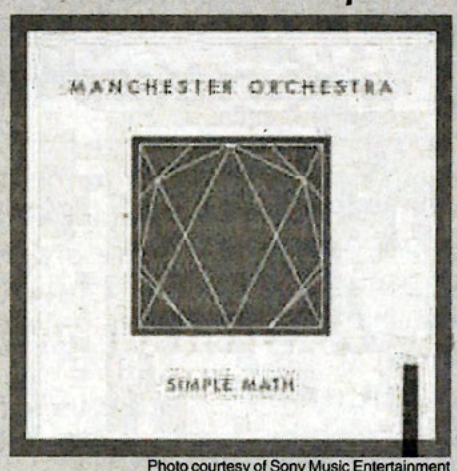


Photo courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment

Simple Math is the third album by the Indie-Rock band Manchester Orchestra, Andy Hull (lead vocals, rhythm guitar, piano),Robert McDowell (lead guitar, keyboards, vocals), Chris Freeman (keyboards, additional percussion, backing vocals), Jonathan Corley (bass), and Tim Very (drums, percussion). The brilliant string arrangements, along with the introspective lyrics make this an album well worth checking out. The opening track "Deer" starts with an acoustic guitar strumming in A Major, while a synth plays ambient noise in the background. It starts out very reminiscent of a simple folk song with lyrics that are mournful, but this sound lays down the emotional framework for the album. The next song "Mighty" is heavier and will appeal to the fans that got into Manchester Orchestra for songs like "Shake It Out" from their previous album. It has overdriven guitars playing in Drop D, while Hull's voice is gruffer and more aggressive than in the previous track. Also interesting to note about "Mighty" is the incorporation of stringed instruments, like the violin and viola, which mesh beautifully and are kept at the perfect levels so that they do not overpower the song, something that tends to happen when traditional style orchestras are incorporated into a rock song.

This harder rock style is continued throughout the album with songs like "April Fool" that has plenty of palm muted notes and cool licks. There is also a certain feeling of twang to the way that the lead guitarist plays his melody over the punkier sounding rhythm guitar.

Despite the hard rocking songs on the album the song that stands out the most is the title track "Simple Math" which is a bit more toned down, but much more emotive. The albums title track,"Simple Math," starts with the lead guitar playing a fairly simple melody while the drums play a simple bass and snare beat with a particularly dry sounding snare. The song continues rhythm guitar comes in playing clean and palm muted with the synth playing ambient sounds, while all of this is going on, a very simple violin and viola arrangement plays in the background, adding depth to the sound. The chorus to the song opens up more and lets the distorted guitars shine, but not overpower.

Overall this album paints a picture filled with questions through Hull's lyrics, but it seems that the beautifully put together and uplifting instrumentation provides answers. With the use of trumpets, violins, violas, and traditional rock instruments *Simple Math* seeks to present a more mature Manchester Orchestra, but fails to move beyond the confines of the Indie genre and in some parts is overproduced. *Simple Math* is worth a listen, but fails to compare to their first album, *I'm like a Virgin Losing a Child's* emotional rawness and grassroots appeal.

Chronicle: The Movie

By Cameron Braunig
Staff Writer

Following the exploits of average teens Andrew (Dane DeHaan), Steve (Michael B. Jordan), and Matt (Alex Russell), Chronicle begins when the friends encounter a mysterious entity that – after afflicting them with days of bloody noses – results in the trio developing advanced telekinetic abilities. The boys quickly discover that their new-found super powers can be manipulated, honed, and strengthened which results in the ability to control larger objects, as well as mimic other traditional enhanced "abilities," such as flight and invulnerability. However, as their powers increase, so does their potential to unintentionally (or intentionally) cause harm to others. Ultimately, the friends agree to keep their abilities in check, but it's a delicate balance that one member of the group – the proverbial loner who has suffered physical and emotional abuse at home and at school – isn't as ready to accept.

Found-footage films have become an increasingly bankable and a low risk prospect for movie studios, which is a method of compiling films partly or entirely of footage that has not been created by the filmmaker, but the actor, changing its meaning by placing it in a new context. It should not be mistaken for documentary or compilation films, neither should it be mistaken with stock footage filming.

Audiences continue to fill theater seats in search of the next compelling found-footage franchise, even if a film doesn't sport high production values or recognizable actors. With that being said, the genre has typically enjoyed its biggest successes with horror fans, and is mostly untested in other film categories. With Chronicle, first time feature-film director Josh Trank tries to deliver compelling character drama and entertaining onscreen action, as well as prove that there's more opportunity in the genre than just spooky jump scares.

As moviegoers become more selective about the never-ending flood of superhero and found-footage "me too" projects available to them, it would be easy to write-off Chronicle as just another trendy cash-grab. However, after a string of less-than-satisfying faux "documentaries" (such as The Devil Inside) and high profile, but ultimately uninspired hero flicks (such as Green Lantern), it's safe to say that Chronicle is poised to genuinely surprise a lot of moviegoers with intriguing characters, cool visuals, and an increasingly gripping central storyline.

The 2012 Academy Awards

The Oscar Race: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

By Owen Robertson
Staff Writer

January 20, 2012 saw the national release of the new Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock movie Extremely Close & Incredibly Loud. Since its release, this movie has enjoyed a modest box office return, strong critical acclaim for the entire cast, and two Oscar Nominations for Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor for veteran actor Max Von Sydow.

The core story of this movie is about a young presumably autistic child, who lost his father on September 11, 2001. The previews present a sense of a journey that this child takes after his father has died. Hanks and Bullock are given top billing for this film, which is deceptive. Bullock herself only appears in the film for

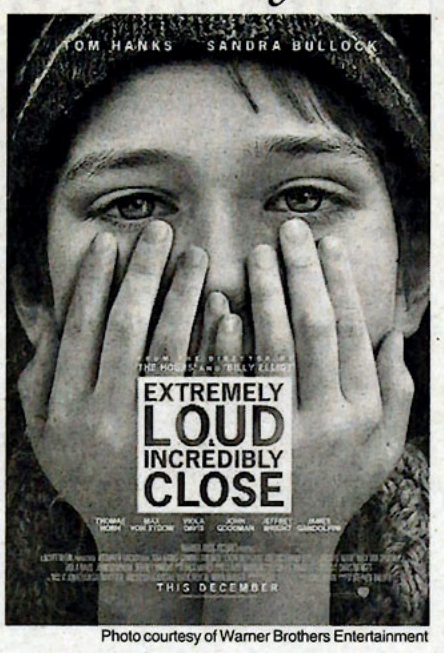


Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers Entertainment

24 minutes, but every one of them is worthwhile.

The disaster of 9/11 is in fact a backdrop to this story. While it is a central plot device, it is not the story. This is a movie about a young boy trying to connect to his father who has been taken away from him by a senseless act. It is about the journey of Oskar Schell trying to find sense in senselessness.

The cinematography of this movie is both engrossing and unsettling. Director Stephen Daldry makes excellent use of the camera to be incredibly close in many shots, so close in fact that the eyes of the actor do seem to allow the audience into their minds, to feel their loss and their pain. There is not a single actor who wastes a moment on the screen. Hanks and Bullock, both Oscar winners and beloved by audiences are, in fact, minor characters despite their top billing.

The performance by young Thomas Horn as Oskar Schell is compelling. This is Horn's first appearance on screen. He was discovered by a producer after appearing on the television show Jeopardy in a teen tournament and he is brilliantly cast in the role. Viola Davis, from The Help, also appears in a wonderful supporting role, providing the bridge for Oskar's character and the final resolution to his search in the end of the movie.

But it is veteran character actor, Max Von Sydow, who's performance is powerful beyond measure through silence. This actor is forced to work without words, which is the most usual means of communication for an actor. In this film that tool is taken away from him. While it is true he still has written words that he writes in a little notebook or on his hands, he does not speak, instead he conveys every emotion through his face and his body. In a career that dates back to 1949 this is only his second academy award nomination and hopefully a win for him.

There is not a wasted performance in this film, brilliantly done with the backdrop of 9/11 the film, it is worthy of its Oscar nomination and very much recommended.

Contraband: What would you hide to protect your family?

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Mark Wahlberg delivers an action packed performance playing a warm hearted and well-meaning ex-smuggler who intended to stay on the straight path, until he is pulled into one last heist. Chris Farraday (Makr Wahlberg), a home security salesman who is married to Kate (Kate Beckinsale), a hair salon manager.

Even though Chris has left the life of crime behind, Kate's younger brother (Caleb Jones) chases the fast money and gets in trouble with a greasy haired, goateed drug lord (Giovanni Ribisi). To save Kate's brother and his own family, Chris is forced to take on one last smuggling act in order to pay off his brother-in-laws debt. Farraday takes a crew of misfits, including his brother-in-law, down to Panama on a merchant vessel run by a corrupt captain (J.K. Simmons). His intent is to smuggle millions of counterfeit US dollars and bring them

back to New Orleans. What makes this movie such a suspense thriller is that nothing seems to run as planned.

Things go terribly wrong in Panama, and back in New Orleans, Kate and her two small children are harassed and threatened by the drug lord. Wahlberg's performance is brilliant while playing cool headed and intelligent Farraday. He reassures Kate, reassesses the situation in Panama, and comes up with another plan that involves working with a local sociopath gangster (Diego Luna). The suspense continues as things go wrong again, but Farraday's quick wit is able to put the plan back on course. You're left on the edge of your seat in suspense waiting for things to go wrong.

The movie would not be complete featuring Wahlberg without him either giving or taking a beat-down, without the usual nasty violence, the car chases, car crashes, and a lot of visible cash being exchanged, although, the movie was lite on sex scenes. The director Baltasar Kormákur creates suspense with tales of continuous miscalculations, increasing betrayals, and the timing of accidents throughout the movie. The suspense is endless as Farraday is forced to find new solutions to endless roadblocks while he tries to retrieve his contraband in Panama.

Ribisi comes off looking the part of a true scumbag who would sell his mother out for some shampoo, a razor, and a bar of soap; items that his character would obviously never use. Beckinsale plays a semi-tough blonde dyed hairdresser sporting dark roots, who is against Farraday going back to the old life, but would rather stay ignorant of the facts as long as her little brother can pay his debts. Luna does an excellent job of portraying a local gangster that prefers the excitement of the crime more than the monetary rewards.

Overall, the movie was an endless action packed suspense thriller that bites and wouldn't let go. Action and disappointment followed by more action and alternative solutions. Nothing would go right, with a new solution waiting around the corner. Walhberg and the cast create a satisfying movie that demonstrates that crime does pay, and it may even pay a little interest.

Sports

Women's lacrosse opens with loss to Rollins

By Chad Wise
Sports Editor

The first Saint Leo women's lacrosse Division II game was played Saturday, Feb. 11, but with a disappointing result: a 23-7 loss to nationally-ranked Rollins. Sophomore Stephanie Marran, also of the Lions soccer squad, recorded a hat trick, including the first ever goal in school history, and freshman Christina Minneci scored two goals in the Lions' debut.

Rollins (1-0) opened the scoring as Saint Leo (0-1) kept the contest relatively close throughout the first half. Down only 5-3, the Lions let the Tars run away with it, as Rollins led 16-5 at the half. Marran would score her third and final goal of the game during the second half, but with the game out of control, it was one of the only celebratory moments.

Freshman goalkeeper Brittany Millsap stopped 10 of 33 shots in her debut, seeing over 53 minutes of action before sophomore Nicole Sirota-Plotnikov received her opportunity to impress, though did not have any shots to keep out of the net.

Marran led the team in shots with seven, six on goal, and co-led in ground balls with Minneci with four. Freshman Joanna Chadwick had the lone assist for the Lions to go along with a goal of her own.

Photo courtesy of Saintleolions.com

Saint Leo will host the first ever Division II women's home game in program history at University Campus on Friday, Feb. 17 against Lindenwood University before travelling to Catawba College for the away game on Feb. 24.

Men's Hoops surge past Tars in weekend win

By Taylor McGillis
Assistant Online Editor

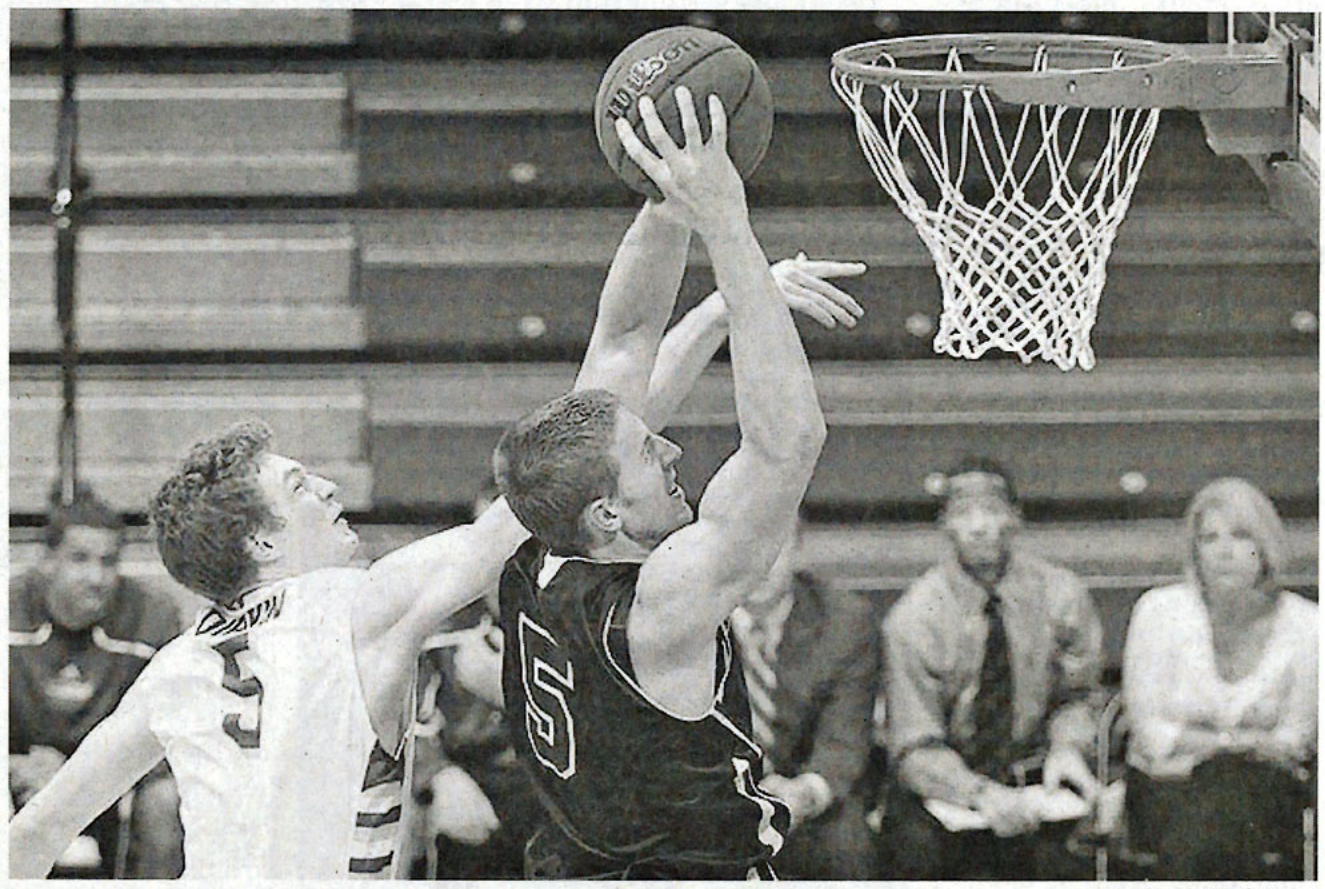


Photo by Mike Carlson

Winter Park, Fla.- The Saint Leo University men's basketball team may have had its best all-around performance of the season in a 71-45 throttling of the Rollins College Tars in Winter Park, Fla. The win extends the Lions' winning streak to three games and puts Saint Leo at 12-10 overall and 6-6 in Sunshine State Conference play.

"I love our chemistry and I think our guys really care about each other. They care more about winning than scoring and statistical stuff and when you have that, you've got a chance, and I think we do," said head coach Lance Randall after the win. "And couple that with the way we're defending and taking care of the ball, we're getting better and that's what you want as a coach this time of the year."

The Lions came out in dominating fashion, jumping out to a 18-1 lead to start the game and not allowing a Rollins basket until the 11:44 mark of the first half. Hot shooting from Trent Thomas and Regis Schaefer, along with a gritty defensive effort, allowed the Lions to get a comfortable lead early and never look back. The Lions took a 38-18 lead into the half behind 13 first half points from Thomas and 10 from Schaefer.

The Lions did not take the foot off the pedal in the second half, continuing to shoot the ball well (45% for the game) including 10-25 from 3-point territory. To accompany his stellar, game high 20-point offensive performance, Thomas had six rebounds and two steals to go with it. Lions offensive facilitator Marcus Ruh scored 12 points of his own while accumulating seven assists on the night. Leading scorers for the Tars were Jeremy Sharpe and Scott Schuette who each had 14 points apiece.

Randall followed up by saying "We really just went out and got after it. I like the way we're playing right now".

Saint Leo (12-10, 6-6 SSC) continues its two game road stretch Wednesday, Feb. 15, travelling to Lakeland, Fla. for a shootout with the Mocs of Florida Southern. The Lions follow that up with two home games against Nova Southeastern on Saturday, Feb. 18 and Eckerd College on Wednesday, Feb. 22. The Lions then close out the year on the road against Barry University. Currently sitting at fifth place in the conference, Saint Leo a chance to move up and finish in the top four if it continues to play well in the final four game stretch.

Upcoming Weekend Games

Saturday, February 18
Swimming @ SSC Championships
9:00am Softball vs. Valdosta State University
2:00pm Men's & Women's Tennis @ Lynn University
2:00pm Women's Basketball vs. Nova Southeastern University
4:00pm Men's Basketball vs. Nova Southeastern University
5:00pm Softball vs. St. Mary's University
6:00pm Baseball vs. Clearwater Christian College

Sunday, February 19
9:00am Men's Tennis @ St. Thomas University
2:00pm Women's Tennis @ Nova Southeastern University
5:00pm Softball vs. Armstrong Atlantic University